

## Pressure mounts for U.N. debate

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — As war escalated in the Gulf, pressure mounted Monday on the Security Council to hold an urgent public debate on the war and to hear calls for a cease-fire. On Monday Jordan added its voice to the appeals of Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Yemen and Sudan to convene "an immediate meeting of the Security Council to examine the grave situation in the Gulf region." Jordan's request came in a letter from its U.N. ambassador, Abdallah Salah, to the council president, Zairean Ambassador Baghaci Nzenguya, who has been consulting with the other 11 council members and other states on whether to hold an open session on the war. Closed consultations of the 15-member council were scheduled for late afternoon, after which the president was to announce whether a public debate would be held. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, meanwhile, declined to comment on a letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz saying he and the Security Council "bear responsibility to history and mankind for the heinous crimes" committed by the U.S.-led military alliance.

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## Allied assault, Iraqi Scud barrage continue 2,000 sorties over Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED FORCES Monday continued to pound Iraq with air assaults, staging over 2,000 sorties over Baghdad which were said to have caused heavy civilian casualties and damages.

The bombing runs by the American-led forces also extended to several border cities.

In its 27th military communiqué of the Gulf war, Iraq said it had shot down three allied aircraft or missiles during 118 raids in the previous 24 hours.

The allies said nine air forces in the 28-nation U.S.-led coalition had flown about 25,000 sorties since war erupted on Jan. 17.

French President Francois Mitterrand's top military adviser, Admiral Jacques Lanxade, told French television Sunday a ground assault to drive Iraq from Kuwait could start in about two weeks.

French Jaguar and Mirage jets attacked armoured units and underground command posts in two raids on Iraq Monday morning, the defence ministry in Paris said.

Iran's IRNA news agency issued an eye-witness report of raids on the towns of Zubaytah and Badrah, close to the Iranian border due east of Baghdad.

"After each explosion a mushroom-like column of smoke rose," it said.

In London, British officials

said about 70 Iraqi aircraft had flown to neutral Iran but the reasons were not yet clear. Iran says it will impound any foreign aircraft landing there until the end of the war. Later some reports said the number had risen to 100.

Earlier Monday, Iraq's 26th war communiqué said its air defences had shot down an allied aircraft which "fell in flames inside Turkish territory," Turkey denied the report.

Iraq says it has shot down more than 180 planes since the war began on Jan. 17. The allied forces have reported the loss of 24 aircraft in combat or accidents.

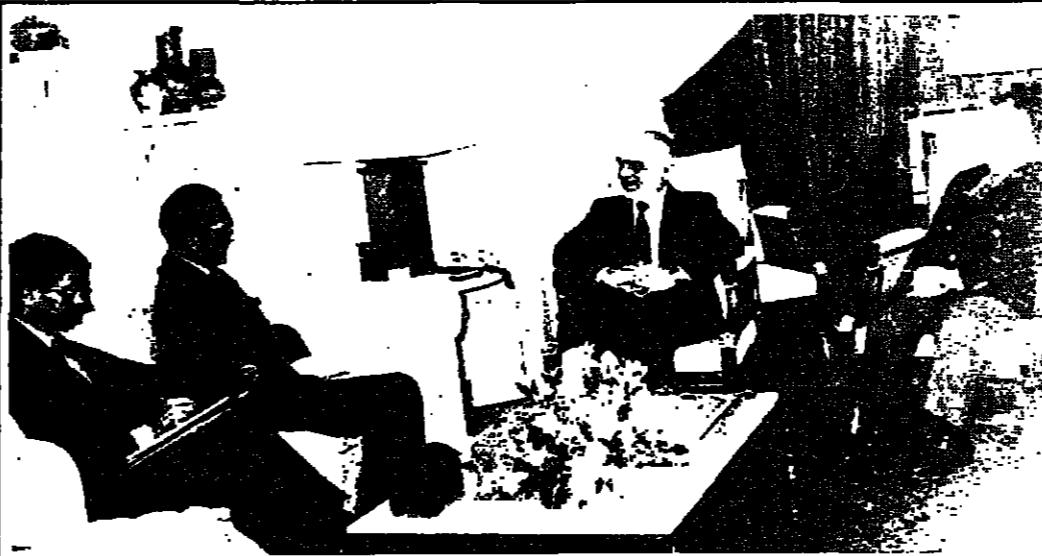
The Iraqi military's 27th communiqué said 50 Israeli planes flew to Saudi Arabia at dawn Monday "to join the aggressive armies there."

The U.S.-led coalition and Israel have denied previous Iraqi statements that Israeli planes were taking part in the allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait from Saudi Arabian bases.

Baghdad Radio repeated a warning that Iraq would carry the war beyond its borders, saying it had a "strong arm capable of reaching all places."

It quoted the ruling Baath Party's Al Thawra newspaper as saying "honourable Arab and Muslim masses everywhere are preparing to join the great confrontation and announce the struggle to support Iraq."

(Continued on page 5)



FRENCH MESSAGE: His Majesty King Hussein received Monday French President Francois Mitterrand's special envoy Francois Cher, who conveyed to him a message from Mr. Mitterrand on France's stand on the Gulf crisis. King Hussein and Mr. Cher, secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry, affirmed the need to continue consultations and contacts on the Gulf crisis and other issues in the

region. The meeting (photo above) was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin and the French ambassador in Amman (Petra photo)

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## PLO says not too late to end war

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to Palestine President Yasser Arafat said Monday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was continuing contacts and efforts to stop the war in the Gulf to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the crisis and the Middle East problem.

"There is a need for stability in the region in order to establish peace, and without the establishment of a Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967 there can never be stability in the region, thus no peace," said Mr. Abu Sharif in a statement telecast to the Jordan Times.

"The PLO had warned of a catastrophe if the U.S. starts a war in the Gulf," the statement said. "President Arafat had informed the five permanent members of the Security Council and the European Community about the consequences of such a decision and urged them to convene an international conference to solve the Middle East problems," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

"The developments in the Gulf had shown so far that what the PLO has been alerting the world community about is real," he said.

## Key parts of Iraqi military still intact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bomb damage assessments from the first 10 days of allied bombing attacks indicate that some important parts of the Iraqi war machine have escaped significant damage, it was reported Monday.

Citing well-placed but unidentified officials, the Washington Post said:

"About 65 per cent of the Iraqi airfields are operational. However, the report quoted a senior official as saying that 'is an abstract capability that does not worry us' because Iraq's air force could be destroyed if planes were brought out of hiding and tried to use the fields."

Nearly all of the Iraqi air defence radar was taken out in the first week of attacks, but about 20 per cent is back in operation.

In contrast, Iraq's 8,000 to 9,000 pieces of high-grade anti-aircraft artillery have been largely destroyed by the allied air campaign.

Only eight of 30 fixed Scud missile launchers had been hit as of Friday and there was no photographic proof of any mobile launchers being destroyed.

## Siad Barre

(Continued from page 1)

had reached the southern Somali town of Kismayu after fleeing in a tank shortly before rebels of the United Somali Congress (USC) overran the presidential palace Sunday.

He declined to comment on reports that Mr. Siad Barre — accompanied by a 40-strong group of loyal troops and close family — had radioed Nairobi Monday to ask for a plane to fly him out of the country.

"I know he was in Kismayu, but I cannot say if he is still there," the Kenyan source said.

He said he had no knowledge of reports from Somali rebel sources that Kenyan military helicopters had left Garissa — a town near Kenya's border with Somalia — to airlift Mr. Siad Barre to safety.

The Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), a southern-based rebel movement linked to the USC in loose anti-Siad Barre alliance, said its fighters were closing in on Kismayu to cut off the fleeing president's retreat.

The rebels drove Mr. Siad Barre from the presidential mansion and seized state radio Saturday night and on Sunday claimed control of the airport, the last government stronghold in the

## Bush shows visible signs of security concern

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House used decoy helicopters to confuse potential assailants Sunday in a clear signal that it is taking seriously extremist anti-American threats triggered by the Gulf war.

President Bush has committed a big mistake, but it is not late to stop the war now. Few days later it might become too late.

"Our information is that the Iraqi army is in very good shape and intact. We hope to stop the war now before the parties concerned seek that after tens of thousands of soldiers get killed.

"President Bush has committed a big mistake, but it is not late to stop the war now. Few days later it might become too late.

"President Bush will commit another mistake if he thinks for a minute that the Arab Nation, all the Arab Nation, doesn't support the Iraqi people and Iraq against the war of destruction waged by the U.S.

"This includes, Egyptian and Syrian masses.

"The PLO is ready to participate in an international conference that will bring a peaceful settlement to all problems in the region. Israel should realize that the Palestine state is its only bridge to security and peace."

A Secret Service agent who did not give his name acknowledged the manoeuvre was a sign of tightened security at the White House following threats to target American interests around the world.

In another sign, when Mr. Bush attended a dinner at a Washington hotel last Wednesday, there were three presidential limousines in the motorcade, each decked out with American and presidential flags on their front fenders.

Usually there is only one or at most two presidential limousines in a White House motorcade.

**Base leave cancelled**

The U.S. armed forces, worried about possible attacks Monday cancelled liberty leave for 40,000 American servicemen and dependents in its military bases in the Philippines.

Philippine officials have blamed of attacks by sympathizers of Iraq against the United States and its allies in the Gulf war after a bungled bomb attack at a U.S. library in Manila's financial district last week.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Rand, spokesman of the 13th U.S. air force at Clark air base north of Manila, said on U.S. armed forces television the security situation was constantly changing.

"On Saturday (and Sunday), we feel comfortable to allow daylight liberty. Today, that's not the case. Effective immediately, the daylight liberty ... is suspended" Col. Rand said.

With liberty leave American servicemen and their dependents can leave base after work to shop or for recreation.

Travel by American servicemen outside Clark, Cubic naval dockyard and four smaller facilities in the Philippines has already been banned. The only exception is official travel outside the bases, U.S. officials said.

Manila last week expelled an Iraqi diplomat and two Iraqi students for alleged involvement in a failed bomb attack on the Thomas Jefferson library. The three Iraqis denied involvement in the attempt.

One Iraqi was killed and another wounded when a bomb they were trying to plant near the library accidentally exploded, police said.

The Philippine armed forces said they were looking for seven members of Arab groups suspected of planning more attacks.

**Seoul beefs up security**

South Korea has stepped up security at Seoul's Kimpo international airport after a warning that Middle East groups have been spotted in Northeast Asia, airport authorities said Monday.

A spokesman for the Korea airports authority said the number of security guards around the airport had doubled and all have been armed since the information was received from the Seoul branch of British Airways.

The rebels issued a news release Sunday appealing for humanitarian aid from international organizations.

"Thousands of corpses in an advanced state of decomposition are laying in the streets," the rebels said. "This could lead to an outbreak of cholera, typhoid, and other forms of epidemic diseases.

"Thousands of injured people have already died due to lack of basic medicines. Many more will die if they do not get the required treatment on time."



DEVASTATION: A view of a building demolished in allied air assaults against Iraq in the 12-day-old Gulf war

## Lebanon, at peace for once, becomes spectator to war

By Mohammad Salam  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Lebanese, ravaged by war for more than 15 years, are relishing their new found peace and unaccustomed role as spectators in the Gulf war.

But they are eyeing neighbouring Israel warily, fearing Palestinian bases in Lebanon could be targeted if the Israelis are dragged further into the conflict by Iraq's Scud missile attacks.

Cartoonist Pierre Sadeq captured the bemusement of many Lebanese. In a Sadeq cartoon in the newspaper Al Diyar, two Lebanese men are watching the war on television. One says to the other: "We're watching those who've been watching us for more than 15 years."

The lebanese government has declared its support for the allied coalition in the Gulf war and for the restoration of Kuwait's toppling government.

"It's nice to enjoy peace, especially when the world around you is on fire," says Jacqueline Qabbout, a housewife. "The people in the Gulf have enjoyed their wealth and spent their millions lavishly when we were living like rats in bunkers and underground shelters."

The lebanese government has declared its support for the allied coalition in the Gulf war and for the restoration of Kuwait's toppling government.

Although Lebanon is not directly involved in the war, its effects are being felt here.

Since the war began Jan. 17, six bombs have exploded at Western and Saudi targets in Lebanon. The worst blast, at a bank in Baabek half-owned by a French company, killed a security guard.

The prices of basic commodities have jumped by at least 35 per cent in Lebanon since the allied air attack on Iraq began, and many Lebanese have rushed to stockpile food, fuel and drinking water.

The government has sent in

course, one feels sorry for the people being killed in the Gulf, but at the same time, it's not our war."

So far, the plan to formally end a civil war in which an estimated 150,000 people have been killed seems to be working, although not everyone is sure the peace will last.

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spectors to penalise gas stations, groceries and bakeries that sell goods at inflated prices.

Some lebanese radio and television stations have been broadcasting war news around the clock. Many Beirut restaurants and nightclubs installed TV sets so their clientele could keep up with developments.

"We used to switch off the music and put on news flashes because everyone was really interested. But some people complained that they go out to night clubs to forget their own war and not to watch somebody else's," said waiter Antoine Jajji at one night spot in west Beirut.

"Now we've put the TV in a separate room. The waiters spread the word to those who're interested if there are any major developments in the Gulf and they rush to watch."

Many Lebanese are worried that if their southern neighbour, Israel, becomes involved in the war it might attack the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) estimated 6,000 guerrillas in South Lebanon.

"Of course we'll suffer again if Israel takes part in the Gulf war," said Hussein Haidar, who runs an import-export business in Beirut.

"Israel would certainly try to eliminate the PLO force in Lebanon, regardless of whether the Palestinians were attacking it or not," he commented.

## U.S. planners ponder post-war scenarios

By Ruth Sinai  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. government experts are trying to devise responses to various outcomes of the Gulf war — from Baghdad's full surrender as the most optimistic ending, to a chaotic, leaderless Iraq as the biggest nightmare.

Initially, planners at the U.S. Defense Department, the National Security Council and the State Department are consulting outside experts, sometimes Iraqis, to sketch scenarios and contingency plans.

The plans from strategies to limit Saddam Hussein's power if he survives the war to tactic backing for a coup by military commanders if they feel Iraq is being destroyed in the war. For example, options to limit President Saddam's influence might include international arms embargos, Arab peacekeeping forces and a large American presence in a "liberated Kuwait."

"Chaos and disintegration are also possible. But we don't want to be the ones restoring order. We'd leave that to the Iraqis and Saudis," said one source familiar with the Planners' work.

Their studies, as described by several people with access to the highly classified material, are general in nature. Details will be worked out only when the fighting will last.

Others have concluded since the war began that a truly successful end to the crisis would include President Saddam's removal from power, said another source.

U.S. officials brought that possibility into the open in recent days when they spoke of bringing President Saddam to trial for "war crimes" because his government allegedly mistreated captured American airmen.

Most planners are stymied by the question of a successor to President Saddam.

**Visionary sees potential for peace**

By Minoli de Soysa  
Reuter

COLOMBO — Arthur C. Clarke, the English visionary who predicted the invention of communication satellites, has been watching with fascination the conflict in the Gulf, which he calls "the world's first satellite war."

As far back as 1945, the author of the bestseller "2001 — A Space Odyssey" foresaw the technology which guides Patriot missiles into the skies above Tel Aviv and beams pictures of the war around the world through Cable News Network.

In the technology that brings instant images of death and destruction, Mr. Clarke sees new hope for the future.

Communication is power, he argues, and the forces unleashed by satellites in the Gulf war have the potential for making the world a safer place.

"CNN is one of the participants in the war. I have a fantasy where (Chairman) Ted Turner is elected president of the world but refuses because he doesn't want to give up power," said Mr. Clarke.

He pointed out that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had allowed reporters from enemy countries to remain in Bagdad, something unthinkable in any other war.

"It is a tribute to the power of this new medium that even people like Saddam are giving the facilities (to transmit news). They know that the reports will be seen by everyone almost instantly," he said.

Now aged 73 and living in Sri Lanka, Mr. Clarke is working on a new book, a personal history of telecommunications.

His starting point is a seminal article on satellites he published in a scientific journal in 1945. It ends with a chapter entitled "next month's history," outlining the role of advanced communications technology in the Gulf war.

In an interview in his home in Colombo, capital of the Indian Ocean island, Mr. Clarke, whose house is filled with computers, awards and trophies.

## CBS continues search for missing news team

reporting from Baghdad since the war began earlier this month.

Arnett reported that the director of Iraq's Information Ministry told him that "they have nothing in their intelligence sources, and military and government sources, about the presence of the CBS team in Kuwait."

A Saudi military patrol found the crew's unoccupied car last week. Saudi officials said Friday that the crew apparently had been heading into Kuwait, more than 560 kilometres southeast of Bagdad.

Columbia Broadcasting System spokesman Tom Goodman said the network's appeals for help in getting information about the missing newsmen were made to U.S. and Saudi military officials, and to Iraqi officials in Washington, France, Japan, and Italy and at the United Nations.

The network also wrote to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and is seeking Iraqi permission to let producer Larry Doyle go to Baghdad to seek information on the missing men, Goodman said.

Goodman said the network has been unable to locate the crew since they last reported from Kuwait.

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# Home News

## EC expected to finalise grant to Jordan soon

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Community (EC) — and Jordan have finalised the details of direct European Commission financial assistance to the Kingdom and a formal announcement of the approximately \$210 million package will be made this week, with a large part of it to be disbursed soon, European source said Monday.

The assistance, part of international aid to Jordan to offset the Kingdom's losses resulting from its adherence to the U.N.-imposed economic sanctions against Iraq, will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1991, and should be appropriated during the current fiscal year, the sources said.

The Ministry of Finance and the EC delegation in Amman are in the process of "fine-tuning certain technicalities" of the aid agreement and an official announcement will be made Wednesday, said one of the sources.

"The entire amount is in the form of outright grants to pay for imports from EC member states," the source said, noting that Europe accounts for about 70 per cent of Jordan's imports.

A "large disbursement" will be made soon after the formalisation of the assistance, which is part of 500 million European Currency Units (ECUs) allocated by the European Commission to Jordan, Turkey and Egypt — the three so-called frontline states hard hit by the Gulf crisis.

The 500 million ECUS (\$675 million) allocation comes direct from the commission's budget and the EC member states would voluntarily contribute a total of another 1,000 ECUs (\$1.35 billion) to be disbursed among the three "frontline" states over and

above bilateral assistance from individual EC members.

Jordan has already received or been pledged about \$250 million as aid from the various EC member states, with Germany providing the largest amount of \$130 million. Non-EC donors include Canada with \$22.8 million and Taiwan with \$20 million.

In addition, the Kingdom has received \$100 million from Japan in long-term, untied soft loans and is finalising another two packages of \$75 million each under stricter terms. However, it has maintained the servicing of its dues to Arab and international agencies whose funds are recycled.

Senior officials have said that the Kingdom would be in a position to resume debt servicing only after it has been compensated for the losses it incurred as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Iraq had been Jordan's biggest trading partner until the crisis erupted in August and accounted for \$200 million annual trade and \$50 million in outright assistance in addition to special oil prices and about \$350 million in transit fees for cargo imported through the port of Aqaba.

Conservative figures supported by United Nations agencies and independent experts estimate the Kingdom's direct and indirect losses resulting from the Gulf crisis at around \$1.2 billion for the year 1990 and \$2.5 billion for 1991.

These figures do not include losses of the savings and assets of Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait some of whom have since returned.

Reports from Europe meanwhile indicated that Israel could be included in the list of "front-line" states qualifying for EC aid after the recent spate of Iraqi missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa. The issue, which is believed to have the strong support of Germany and France among others, is expected to be discussed by the EC Council of Ministers in their next meeting.

Banks have already extended a grant of \$166 million to Israel.

## Expert explains environmental disasters from Gulf oil slick

By Nur Sadi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If anyone miscalculated during the Gulf war days, it was the United States and its allies; choosing to ignore the adverse environmental disasters that a Gulf War would bring.

While His Majesty King Hussein and the officials were traveling the world issuing warnings of potential ecological catastrophes, some foreign newspapers, ignoring various government sources, dismissed the idea as a total exaggeration.

On Jan. 23, the oil fields were set ablaze. On Jan. 26, 500,000 to one million barrels of oil were spilled on Kuwaiti shores. The entire world now panics as the worst of pre-war fears and consequences turn into a dire and sombre reality.

The oil slick in the northern Gulf, which has covered some 300 square miles, cannot be easily stopped, according to Dr. Abdulkarim Toukan, director of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

The cleaning-up procedures with skimmers and booms involve containing the oil, sucking it on a ship and separating it from water, which is thrown back to the sea, Toukan said.

According to Reuters, Saudi Arabia's state oil company has chartered a Norwegian owned anti-pollution ship to help mop up the oil slick. But Toukan maintained that the ship is not likely to succeed in sweeping the sea clean.

"Each day, half a square mile can be accomplished. Since the slick is spread over 300 square miles, you'd need 600 days to clean up the whole thing."

Toukan told the Jordan Times. He added that since this has to be done after the war, the oil will not be contained due to spreading. "The oil will sink and once that happens, it remains down for good," Toukan affirmed.

The particular characteristics of the Arabian Gulf region worsen the consequences, Toukan said.

"The Gulf, being 600 miles long and 50 to 220 miles wide is almost entirely an enclosed sea."

As a result, any oil spill remains within the Gulf region before decimation. Since the Gulf is extremely shallow, with an average depth of 110 feet, the spilled oil would cause extensive damage to coral reefs, sand flats and seagrass beds along the southern Gulf, let alone marine life," he explained.

The burning oil wells will cause the content of carbon dioxide to increase significantly, adversely contributing to the greenhouse effect.

"A sooty smoke appears, absorbing sunlight very efficiently thus reducing daytime temperature," Toukan said. "If we consider three million barrels a day, the soot area after 30 days of continuous burning will be around four to five million square kilometres. In other words, one half the area of the United States," he added.

Because of the heat, estimated at around 400 degrees Centigrade, the soot will be carried high into the atmosphere, and maybe the stratosphere, Toukan warned. "It could stay around for months and maybe years."

However, for how long the slick will burn varies according to the temperature, the water, winds and currents.

He added that "in the subtropical region, there is a strong wind reaching 200 knots. This is a continuous belt around the circumference of the earth, featuring mainly in Jordan, Japan and Florida. There, the soot may rise up towards this westerly wind and revolve around the earth."

Consequently, smoke may cover the whole earth surface causing a substantial reduction of solar radiation and cooling, especially in the sub-tropical region, he noted.

## Iraqi Scuds trigger souvenir business boom

AMMAN (R) — Fouad Al Afghani and his cousins are mass-producing fake missiles to keep up with demand for replicas of the Soviet-designed Scuds Iraq is fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia.

In a small shop in the centre of Amman, cluttered with souvenirs at better times attracted eastern visitors, Al Afghani exports abroad world events, to coincide mementoes for local consumption and the rare forester.

His latest addition, Scud souvenirs, reflects huge popular sympathy in Jordan for Iraq and Saddam Hussein's repeated missile strikes on Israel. "We have to be able to market our ideas at a low price in order to sell," said the owner, a

Jordan has suspended servicing its \$8.4 billion foreign debts in the wake of the Gulf crisis after having rescheduled repayments and part of interest for fiscal year 1990 and mid-1991 to the Paris Club of creditor governments and the London Club of creditor commercial institutions. However, it has maintained the servicing of its dues to Arab and international agencies whose funds are recycled.

Senior officials have said that the Kingdom would be in a position to resume debt servicing only after it has been compensated for the losses it incurred as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Jordan's 1991 budget envisages total foreign assistance of \$150 million. An emergency supplementary budget of JD 120 million (\$160 million) is conditional on the receipt of additional assistance.

While the monetary situation of Jordan has not been affected to any significant extent by the Gulf war, analysts say that the government might not be able to realise its target of JD 705 million (\$830 million) in domestic revenues and external assistance will have to be appropriated to make up for the shortfall.

Officials as well as analysts are optimistic that the actual amount of foreign assistance to Jordan will be higher than envisaged despite the political and economic pressure brought to bear upon the Kingdom as a result of its refusal to join the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

"It is not in the interest of Europe or Japan to have a destabilised Jordan, and it is only natural to expect them to step in to help the Kingdom," according to Dr. Abdullah Maliki, general manager of the Association of Jordanian Banks.

Banks have already extended a grant of \$166 million to Israel.

## Princess Alia joins in planting trees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein Monday took part in a tree-planting celebration organised by the Rosary Sisters School at Yajour.

Taking part in the celebration also were a number of officials from the Amman Department of Education and the school teachers and students.

Another tree-planting celebration was held Monday at Salt where Balqa Governor Falih Gharaibeh and other officials took part in planting trees on a plot of land estimated at 50 dunums. Most of the trees planted at the celebration were olives as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture's nurseries.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Sami Sunnah last week urged farmers and fruit tree growers to embark on planning trees and said this was the right time of the year for such type of farming.

The Balqa governor said thousands of trees had been planted in other ceremonies held by the municipalities, schools and other organisations in the governorate.

## Ortega wants 'weak' U.N. chief to quit

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has demanded that United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar resign because he (De Cuellar) had "allowed the United Nations to be used for the justification of waging a cruel war."

Ortega, who was on a brief visit to Jordan, blamed the secretary-general for being "weak" and for allowing "great damage to be done."

He said that before the outbreak of the war on Jan. 17 he had met with De Cuellar in Baghdad and that the U.N. secretary-general briefed him on the outcome of his talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"What he told us was different from what he said and did later on, he said. He told us that the United States was not justified in waging a war (against Iraq), and that there was a bad interpretation of the United Nations resolution (678)," Ortega, head of the opposition Sandinista Liberation Front of Nicaragua, told the Jordan Times.

Ortega, who was in Baghdad on Jan. 14, recalled his last visit there and his conversation with the Iraqi president. "Baghdad was braced up for attack, because they were certain that the U.S. wanted war," he said.

The former Nicaraguan president also said that he felt that Saddam Hussein was still hoping that a peaceful solution could be achieved to resolve the crisis.

However, he regretted that all efforts to reach that solution were blocked by certain parties.

"While Baghdad and the secretary-general were talking peace, the White House was authorising war," Ortega said.

Hussein had reportedly told Ortega that the Europeans had asked to meet with him but also set pre-conditions to these talks.

"(Hussein) told me that the Europeans wanted him to say things that would demoralise his people, without even getting a guarantee from them the Americans," he added.

Because of the heat, estimated at around 400 degrees Centigrade, the soot will be carried high into the atmosphere, and maybe the stratosphere, Toukan warned. "It could stay around for months and maybe years."

However, for how long the slick will burn varies according to the temperature, the water, winds and currents.

He added that "in the subtropical region, there is a strong wind reaching 200 knots. This is a continuous belt around the circumference of the earth, featuring mainly in Jordan, Japan and Florida. There, the soot may rise up towards this westerly wind and revolve around the earth."

Consequently, smoke may cover the whole earth surface causing a substantial reduction of solar radiation and cooling, especially in the sub-tropical region, he noted.

As they have been in reality. The Iraqi team said it had killed two Americans and captured three prisoners while the allies said they killed two Iraqis and captured four.

Other children stood cheering and clapping as they watched the fighting get more chaotic and tumultuous towards the end.

Some said children had also thought up another game — "negotiations" — in which "Iraqi" and "U.S." delegates face each other across a desk and talk peace.

It was not very popular.

"We always argue and come up with nothing," said Hilmie Masri, aged 12.

The school's deputy headmistress, Fardaws Rashid, said she toured each class Monday to explain to the 300 pupils about the war and how to face it.

"But they knew more than me. They told me things that I haven't even heard of," she said.

Rashid said she had brought to the school sodium, water and pieces of cloth to use as masks in case of a chemical attack and was preparing a sealed room at the school as a shelter.

Rashid said she had brought to the school sodium, water and pieces of cloth to use as masks in case of a chemical attack and was preparing a sealed room at the school as a shelter.

Defenders used their hands and feet to push the attackers back. Under the rules, if a defender grabs an attacker's hand or throws him to the floor, it means he has downed a plane.

Casualties were hard to assess,

## Syrians return some travellers at border

## Government eases travel restriction

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Monday eased restrictions imposed on travel abroad by government employees and others and said that employees seconded to other countries and delegations on official business or those going on training courses and scholarships could leave the country.

Another tree-planting celebration was held Monday at Salt where Balqa Governor Falih Gharaibeh and other officials took part in planting trees on a plot of land estimated at 50 dunums. Most of the trees planted at the celebration were olives as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture's nurseries.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Sami Sunnah last week urged farmers and fruit tree growers to embark on planning trees and said this was the right time of the year for such type of farming.

The Balqa governor said thousands of trees had been planted in other ceremonies held by the municipalities, schools and other organisations in the governorate.

According to a statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massadeh, those with contracts to work abroad or citizens holding valid residence permits in other countries could also leave, provided they were not required to do national service.

Freight was not affected.

The agency quoted information from official Jordanian sources as saying that nine out of 10 Jordanians trying to enter Syria through the border post of Dara' were turned back without explanation following similar problems Sunday.

Saudi Arabia, the main ground base for allied forces in the Gulf, had banned Jordanians from entering after war broke out and told those leaving they would not be allowed to return.

## All roads open

## Snow storm kills one in Tafileh

TAFILEH (J.T.) — All roads within the Tafileh governorate are now open to traffic after they had been cleared from heavy snow in the past three days.

Between 30 and 70 centimetres of snow fell on Tafileh highlands in southern Jordan during the past storm, but according to Tafileh Governor Khaled Bawazir there were no material losses.

The governor, however, reported that Dr. Abdul Rahman Magousi, a physician employed at the Basra health centre, died from a car accident at Al Sharif district, 12 kilometres east of Tafileh town.

District governor of Basra, Mukheimer Falah, was admitted to hospital after suffering injuries from the same accident which occurred after both men had lost

their way in the snow Saturday while on the way to work.

The governor landed the continued efforts of civil defence men and police, and also the private sector's volunteers who helped to reopen roads and ease movement on the roads.

Bawazir advised farmers and stock breeders living near the wadis and streams to move away to higher and safer ground and to take extra precaution at this time when the snow is melting, causing a rise in the level of water in the streams.

According to Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanad, snow will fall again in Jordan Friday when the country will be affected by a new low pressure with cold fronts.

A police statement said the girl was admitted to the Al Hussein Medical City for treatment, and investigations were underway.

The girl, Nancy Kamil Hadid, was described by hospital sources as being in satisfactory condition and resting Monday afternoon.

According to the police report, the explosive device went off at Al Jandawieh district in the Wadi Seer area, west of Amman, but no further details were available Monday.

## Queen inspects hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a series of visits to follow-up on the contingency plan prepared by the Ministry of Health for health and medical institutions in Jordan, Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the Bashir and Zarqa Government hospitals, where she was briefed on the measures that have been taken to prepare the hospitals for any emergency that might arise, in view of the prevailing situation in the region.

Reuter news agency quoted official Jordanian sources as saying that nine out of 10 Jordanians trying to enter Syria through the border post of Dara' were turned back without explanation following similar problems Sunday.

Freight was not affected.

The agency quoted information from official Jordanian sources as saying that nine out of 10 Jordanians trying to enter Syria through the border post of Dara' were turned back without explanation following similar problems Sunday.

Saudi Arabia, the main ground base for allied forces in the Gulf, had banned Jordanians from entering after war broke out and told those leaving they would not be allowed to return.

In her meetings with the graduates, Queen Noor emphasised the vital role the health sector plays in Jordan and urged the medical cadre to work diligently to serve their country and its people. Her Majesty also commended them on the very important humanitarian work they do.

Queen Noor also toured some of the hospitals' wings and facilities

By Rami G. Khouri

# Jordan Times

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## Democracy or hypocrisy?

ONE OF the first casualties of the Gulf war was the institution of democracy in many countries of the "democratic" West and closer to home. In America, the self-styled bastion of democratic rule, Arab-Americans, in addition to being under constant harassment by street demagogues, are now coming under the surveillance of the FBI. France, the country that in the 18th century revolutionised the concept of freedom and democracy, is banning three Arab-language papers printed in Paris and confiscating videotapes that express the sentiments of millions of French citizens of Arab origin. Also in France, Britain and Italy Arabs are being deported or detained, often for no other reason than being Arab.

In Israel, the so-called guardian of Western-type democracy in the Middle East region, the whole population of the West Bank and Gaza, all 1.75 millions of them, have been under an uninterrupted curfew, now entering its 12th day. The Palestinians under "benevolent" Israeli occupation risk being killed if they leave their homes for any reason. And with a total blanket on news from the West Bank and Gaza no-one can tell what the situation is like in Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps. Even more depressing is the fact that while the Israeli authorities provide an estimated 1,000 foreign journalists working out of there with gas masks, the Palestinian population is denied even the purchase of basic foodstuffs and medicine, let alone the gas masks. This despite the fact that the Israeli supreme court ordered the army to distribute the masks to the Palestinians even before the war broke out in the Gulf.

And when Jordanians, happy with their nascent democracy, express their support to their brothers in Iraq and under Israeli occupation, all the "civilised world" shows displeasure and indignation over our feelings. Of course, if Western countries with all their fabled democracy could be discriminant and brutal against their own societies because of their race, then the Israelis can naturally go even further in their inhuman practices against the Palestinians.

Israeli leaders had been telling visiting German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that German protesters against the Gulf war were aligned against the West in general and Israel in particular. Although Genscher's Israeli hosts did not spell it out for him in so many words, the message was loud and clear. A democracy that does not serve the whims of Western and Israeli leaders must not be allowed to function. And people who do not "understand" their interests being "defended" by the U.S.-led alliance must be muzzled.

These, for sure, cannot be the bases on which true and genuine democracy is founded. The fact of the matter is that these self-appointed democracies are at best selective in applying their standards who employ all the state power to defend the rights of the few.

And all those who do not fall in line are the outcasts, be they citizens of these "democracies" or of any other aspiring democracy.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARABS and Muslims will resort to a war of different forms and they will resort to retaliation against the aggressors, and it will be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth in the ongoing confrontation with the U.S.-led allied, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The Arabs and Muslims who the Westerners call terrorists are bound to fan out and spread all over the globe to take revenge on the aggressors and their interests for the old people and children massacred in Iraq by the air raids and the martyrs whose blood was shed because of this aggression, said the paper. The aggression launched by the U.S.-led allies including the U.N. Secretary General will not escape without punishment for their aggression on the Arab and Muslim people of Iraq and for their massacring of women and children, the paper said continued. Millions of Arabs and Muslims can by no means forgive the aggressors nor can they war against the invaders be abandoned until Arab and Muslim people's rights have been restored, the paper added. The invaders, the paper said, will be chased around in every corner and they will pay dearly for their crimes against humanity. The paper said there can be no mercy for those who launched aggression on Iraq or those who have been financing or helping the invaders; and the faithful will soon embark on the first step to carry out their revenge.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday urges the Jordanian public to contribute generously towards bolstering the country's defences in the face of aggression by donating funds to the People's Army. Nazis pays tribute to those wealthy, but few people, who have to date offered large sums of money to the People's Army and to those private organisations which followed suit, and the workers who gave a one day pay for this noble cause. The writer notes that the People's Army will no doubt assume the role of defending the nation as a back-up force to the regular armed forces in the event of war; and this army should be the pride of all Jordanians for the sacrifices it is being prepared to offer for the nation. Under the present crucial circumstances and in the light of continued aggression on Iraq and the looming danger threatening the Kingdom, one tends to look to the wealthy among the Jordanian people who had massed their wealth from Jordan and built their richness as a result of the facilities offered them by the country, the writer adds. He says that the rich should join the efforts of the poor and the ordinary people who have been offering all they can for their country and their nation.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# History, human nature and the cash register coalition

WHILE Washington and the cash register coalition have kept their guns and diplomacy focused squarely on Iraq and Kuwait during the past half year, the United States has probably once again missed a crucial change in the people and the political landscape of the Middle East. The American-led military force assembled in the Gulf is likely to prevail over Iraq militarily, though at terrible cost to both sides and perhaps to the entire global economy. One does not doubt the ability or willingness of the United States and friends to kill Arabs and Muslims, and destroy their national and economic assets.

The question is — and has been since the French in their imperial flair entered Indochina several decades ago and then bowed out in favour of the Americans and their intuitive Third World ugliness: can military might based on superior technology resolve a political and human problem based on sustained injustice?

The answer is: for a while, yes. For a few years (Vietnam et al), force can triumph over justice. But in the end, justice prevails. In this Gulf war, the Americans and the cash register coalition have the short-term advantages of money and technology on their side. Iraq and the 80 per cent of the Arab people who stand with it have the long-term advantages of history and human nature on their side. You take your choice, and either die with dignity, or die in a blaze of sugar-coated breakfast cereal and 36 different flavours of American ice cream.

The West is enchanted by the repertoire of technological wizardry coming out of the Pentagon, and lapped up by the western press. It's simply too much for the press and the people to resist — especially when one has to compete against Joe Montana and Captain Kangaroo for the hearts, minds and attention span of a nation that has been transformed from a people into a mere audience, one that is measured not by emotions, morality or aspirations, but by ratings. The playing field has been carefully drawn by Americans who respond to cheerleaders and pom-poms better than they do to the historical reality of billions of Third World people who are not white, Christian/Jewish, industrialised and northern. Americans have led the world into the ultimate fantasy — a real-life, high-tech video arcade game in which the forces of civilisation defeat the forces of evil. How simple and near the world is when viewed through the gunsight of a Stealth bomber, or the joystick of a video game.

While the British and French foreign ministers met earlier this week to "look ahead to the future of the Middle East after the Gulf war" — in a macabre, haunting replay of the Sykes-Picot era and mentality — we, too, have been looking back to history and forward in the future. I am convinced that political and emotional forces unleashed throughout much of the Arab World since early August will start to redraw the Arab political map in years to come. In the redrawing, the United States, Great Britain, Israel and those who joined the cash register coalition will be the ultimate losers.

The two most significant political forces in the Arab World in the past ten years have been Islamic fundamentalism and democratic pluralism, reflecting the feelings and hopes of the overwhelming majority of the people of the region. Both forces have grown as an indigenous grassroots response to half a century of failure to achieve Arab goals — goals such as domestic democracy and pluralism, indigenous socio-economic development, stability and long-term security, pan-Arab regional integration and cooperation, meeting the challenge of Israel, fostering rational and productive ties with the industrialised powers of the north, and overcoming the legacy of nearly a full century of manipulation and subjugation of Western military powers driven to safeguard their own colonial and imperial interests in the region.

Islamic fundamentalism emerged in the early 1980s because people had no other source of hope or change than God — in the same manner that religious figures and institutions were such a powerful force of change and a focal point of activism among blacks in the American south, and in Southern Africa, Poland and Romania, South Korea and Central America, among others. Unable to secure their human needs, political equity or hope for the future from their temporal political rulers, the Arab and Muslim people turned to God.

Their activism, organisational skills, motivation and lack of fear saw the Islamic fundamentalist movements challenge powerful and established political systems throughout the Arab World during the 1980s. In some Arab countries, they were crushed by

the political and military forces of the incumbent ruling power, but remain very powerful beneath the surface. In others, they helped foster significant political change which included the beginning or the restoration of pluralistic and democratic rule.

These nascent democratic and pluralistic systems started to take root, in various forms, degrees and periods, in Sudan, Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen and Tunisia. The combination of Islamic fundamentalism and democratic pluralism represents the most powerful, authentic and widespread political sentiment to sweep the Arab World perhaps since the days of Saladin (Saladin) in the 12th Century. The West, especially the United States, has largely missed the meaning of this change in the attitude, bravado, dynamism and organisational capabilities of the people of the Arab World — and of this people's willingness to suffer inequity and subjugation no more, whether it comes from their own country, the broader region, or Fort Bragg.

The Arab and Muslim people today, unlike those of three or four decades ago, are no longer willing to remain docile, obsequious and humiliated in the face of domestic autocracy, regional defeat, pan-Arab fragmentation, social and economic confusion, or international humiliation. The posture of Iraq since Aug. 2 and the immense support it has received from most of the people of the Arab World, including its stoic and honourable performance during the early weeks of the Gulf war, has ignited a third powerful force in the minds and hearts of people throughout the Arab World — the force of pan-Arab nationalism.

Yeah, yeah, I know, I know: Saddam Hussein is an animal who stole Kuwait from its mother and ate it for breakfast. In the face of this awful deed, the larger fact remains that western/Zionist neo-colonialism, militarism, and predatory diplomacy during the past 75 years is far and away the greatest threat which has confronted the entire Arab World throughout most of this century. It does not detract from the wrong that has befallen Kuwait; it simply dwarfs it, and overwhelms it in our perception of political priorities. Certainly, Kuwait must be liberated, along with Palestine, South Lebanon, and the Golan Heights — but if liberating Kuwait means once again delivering the entire Arab World to the political subjugation, military control, commercial exploitation and neo-colonial dominance of the western/Zionist combine, with funding, fawning and foot soldiers from the cash register coalition, then the response which can be expected is precisely the response which has emanated from most of the Arab people since Aug. 2.

In the wake of the war, no matter how and when it ends, the fusion of Islamic fundamentalism, democratic pluralism and pan-Arab nationalism will continue to grow throughout the region — fuelled and hastened by the spectacle of the power of Iraq being destroyed by a combination of the Mother of Colonials (U.K.), the Neo-colonial Kid (USA), Israel, and the cash register coalition (comprising would-be and has-been European colonials, panting geo-political groupies, assorted Arab merchants and basket cases, and hangers-on from the rest of the world). This fusion of Arab sentiment will challenge those in the area who sided with Israel and the United States in their war against Iraq, and should usher in a period of sustained but perhaps slow political re-ordering in the region. Add Somalia to the list. We already see signs of change in Morocco and Egypt. Others will follow. Unlike the Paxman Universe favoured by George Bush and the American people, the real world of mass justice and national dignity does not happen overnight, or without cost. That, one remembers, was the lesson of the American Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Or did the world history of national justice stop in the third quarter of the 19th Century, because the American people were in sight of drive-in movies, self-cleaning ovens and pre-buttered English muffins?

Though the physical destruction of Iraq and Kuwait will be a dear blow to pan-Arab interests, the future of the Middle East will be determined ultimately by the more powerful regional political forces which have been unleashed since Aug. 2, in the short run, and since the overthrow of the shah of Iran in 1979, in the longer run.

While the war itself is not going to be a repeat of Vietnam, the political aftermath will be. The military superiority of the United States and Israel can repeatedly do damage to the region; but ultimately, when the Arabs show that they can and repeatedly do sustain more damage than the American-Israeli combine can inflict, the political will of the 200 million Arab nations will triumph. In other words, when western military superiority no

longer scares an indigenous Third World population that has reached a stage of fearlessness, the stage is set for indigenous justice to prevail over western militarism.

It is no wonder that the Americans and the cash register coalition keep their focus squarely on Kuwait, while ignoring the problems and hopes of the people of the rest of the region. Like the gunsights of a Stealth bomber, there is drama and determination in such a blinkered attitude and political fantasy of the sort which we have not seen practised on a large scale since the Americans did the same thing in Vietnam some 20 years ago.

The most significant lesson of the past six months has not been the military resolve of the west, but rather the steadfast, unblinking, uncowed political resolve of Iraq and the 80 per cent of the Arab people who have stood with it in its confrontation with the United States. The military destruction of Iraq will only increase this sentiment in Arab minds and hearts — just as the fierce bombing of North Vietnam increased the resolve of the Vietnamese to prevail, or as the Soviet bombing of Afghanistan increased the resolve of the Afghans to prevail.

This is the probable political consequence of the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the region during the past decade. Islam has provided emotional fortitude which in turn has given the Arabs a political resolve that is unprecedented in this century. Combined with nascent democracy and resurgent Arab nationalism, it holds out the promise of providing the Arabs with the means of dealing with their array of regional and domestic problems. A greater expression of true grassroots Arab sentiments — through democratic pluralism, Islamic fundamentalism, or a synthesis of the two such as we are seeing in Jordan, Algeria, and Yemen — will lead to more productive integration of pan-Arab human, economic and natural resources.

A dream, you say? So was freedom in East Europe and South Africa a year ago. Or are Arabs and Muslims not allowed to aspire to their dreams except if they sign up for the cash register coalition? Do our national aspirations only derive validity from the seal of approval of Washington and London? That was the case at the start of this century; it is no longer the case today — regardless of how much impressive weaponry the Americans can bring into this region, or how much cash they can squeeze out of its more profligate and confused leaders. Those who trust American promises do so at their own peril, because — in line with the convenience ethic which dominates American society — they will be used and discarded at Washington's whims. Look, for example, at how the United States reacted to Jordan and Yemen when these two countries moved into a democratic mode. Because our people and leadership spoke in a single voice for pan-Arab rights and against foreign military intervention, we have been subjected to a crude and fierce pressure campaign, to the point where both Yemen and Jordan face economic collapse. The world seems not to care. The lesson: Arab salvation, security and identity come from pan-Arab action and integration, and not from a box of Cheesies. Arab redemption comes from honest Arabs, not from air-cushioned sneakers that glow in the dark.

The west and Israel will always try to oppose the trend towards Arab unity, independence and strength. This is clear in their drive not only to force Iraq out of Kuwait, but also to destroy Iraq's military and economic assets. But, Israel and the west probably cannot ward off a more rational and integrated Arab World for very much longer, because a pivotal historical moment has been breached.

For the past five and a half months, the Arabs and Muslims of the Middle East have sent a clear message to the world; the age of colonialism and imperialism is over. The era of Arabs and Muslims being at the receiving end of double-standards in applying U.N. resolutions is over. The era of Arabs submitting to the military strength of Israel and its American financiers and apologists is over. The current conflict, and the attitudes it has revealed throughout the Arab World, represents the end of the old era, and the start of a new one. You can't see this through the gunsights of a Stealth bomber, political blinkers that do not permit you to look beyond the borders of Kuwait, or the haze of a political career recently dominated by a determination to dispel the image of a wimp. But, if you look hard and long enough, you'll see it in the eyes of our Arab children, in the hearts and minds of our middle aged men and women, and in the bitter memories of our elders. Either that, or the 150 million Arabs who oppose western militarism and support Iraq's defiance of the United States are collectively stark raving mad.

## Intense bombing not always decisive in past battles

By Robert Barr

The Associated Press

LONDON — Allied commanders in the Gulf boast that their bombardment of Iraqi targets is the heaviest in history. Some past engagements that started similarly, however, have ended miserably for the bombers.

"If you have a high-quality opponent, bombardment alone will not prevail," Peter Simkins, historian at the Imperial War Museum, said Thursday.

At the Somme in 1916, the British deployed 1,537 guns, one every 20 metres. It was said to be the greatest concentration of fire-

the Somme by the British commander, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

"In the early discussions, Haig had said that corps were not to attack until their commanders were satisfied that the enemy's defences had been sufficiently destroyed but this condition seems to have dropped as time passed," according to the official history of the war.

In 1944 assault on Monte Cassino in Italy, allied forces encountered furious opposition from German forces which survived bombardment that had reduced the hilltop monastery to rubble.

The allies set up the invasion Iwo Jima by a then unprecedented bombardment for the Pacific — 6,800 tonnes (6.2 million kilograms) of bombs, followed by 22,000 shells in a three-day naval pounding before the invasion on Feb. 19, 1945.

U.S. forces took 27,499 casualties before the fighting ended in June, against a Japanese garrison estimated to have no more than 23,000 men.

In Normandy, though the Germans resisted us in their usual professional way, their resistance may have been a lot worse" without the pre-invasion bombing, Simkins said.

In the second world war, in Monte Cassino and I suggest in Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Normandy, we enjoyed naval and air superiority. Yet despite enjoying these factors, we did not have an easy time."

The allied forces are fighting in different terrain than in the two world wars, and with vastly different weapons against an Iraqi army of still unknown capability to withstand aerial punishment. But Simkins cautioned that they should still heed the lessons learned by their predecessors.

"In the Second World War, in

Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Normandy, we enjoyed naval and air superiority. Yet despite enjoying these factors, we did not have an easy time," he said.

Heather Milner, a former member of the British

## Superpowers closer on Gulf than on arms or Baltics

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Efforts by Washington and Moscow to display unity on the Gulf crisis contrast with silence on other disputed topics: The Baltic republics, arms control and a Kremlin tilt towards hardline policies.

After two hours of talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Saturday the new Soviet foreign minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, reassured U.S.-Soviet solidarity in the campaign to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

But he could not erase entirely what seems to be a growing difference over U.S.-led air raids which Moscow fears may be inflicting too much damage on Iraq and its civilian population.

They said a recent bloody crackdown on pro-independence forces in the Baltics and other Soviet domestic developments had been discussed, but neither gave any clue as to whether U.S. concerns had been answered.

Has a dramatic improvement in superpower ties, hailed as perhaps the Bush administration's major foreign policy achievement, suffered irreparable damage because of an apparent hardline shift by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev?

U.S. officials admit relations have suffered. How seriously may become clearer after a Monday meeting between Bessmertnykh and President George Bush.

They will decide whether a Gorbachev-Bush summit will take place in Moscow as scheduled, from Feb. 11-13.

Even if the summit is delayed, however, both governments are expected to try to couch the decision in words that will not

exacerbate tensions.

Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation as Soviet foreign minister in December, carrying with it a warning against dictatorship in his country, hit Washington like a wave of cold water.

Since then the killing by Soviet troops of pro-independence activists in Lithuania and Latvia — action disavowed by the Kremlin

concessions on START. Bessmertnykh's comments on Saturday could be interpreted as willingness for a postponement, or resignation that such a move is inevitable.

"I'm optimistic about the need to have a summit happen," he told reporters. "But we shall discuss the timing and circumstances for it."

**The New York Times quoted administration officials as saying Washington would ask for the summit to be postponed unless Bessmertnykh brought a convincing new message of changed Soviet policy on the Baltics or concessions on START.**

## Masri

(Continued from page 1)

later Monday. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, he said he discussed Jordanian-Iranian relations with Iranian leaders. The two sides agreed to work closely towards achieving a ceasefire in the Gulf war, he said.

"We agreed to maintain contacts on all levels, especially on the level of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference," he said.

Jordan and Iran also agreed on the reopening of their respective embassies in Tehran and Amman within the next two weeks and said the two countries had close or identical views on many issues.

The announcement was made by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati who described his talks with Mr. Masri over the past two days as constructive.

"The two countries shared close or identical views on many issues and contacts are likely to increase in the future and bilateral cooperation would expand in the cultural and economic fields," Mr. Velayati said.

IRNA also quoted Mr. Velayati as saying that "the Gulf crisis brought about changes to the region such as the resumption of Iran's diplomatic ties with Jordan, Tunisia and Mauritania."

Speaking before he saw off Mr. Masri, Mr. Velayati said: "Political reforms in Jordan and the election of Muslim candidates to Jordan's parliament last year had paved the way for renewal of ties between the two countries."

Mr. Masri called his visit to Tehran fruitful and said his talks with Iranian officials signalled bright prospects for Tehran-Amman relations and political cooperation, IRNA noted.

The agency quoted Mr. Masri also as saying that the two countries would cooperate at regional and international levels.

Mr. Masri was quoted as telling Mr. Rafsanjani that Jordan "is ready to participate in all efforts aimed at reaching a ceasefire in the Gulf." He also voiced Jordan's full backing for Iran's endeavours to convene an Islamic conference to examine the crisis.

## Border

(Continued from page 1)

Rescued, 15 Iraqis were also among those arriving Monday. Earlier statistics from evacuee-transit camps in Jordan said another 11 Iraqians remained in the Kingdom.

Most of the Iranian evacuees from Iraq are believed to be members of Mujahideen-e-Khalq — the main rebel movement opposed to the Tehran government who are leaving the region after Tehran and Baghdad agreed to make peace shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August.

"We are Iranian refugees who have been in Iraq for the past few years and we are not requesting the Jordanian government and the United Nations to assist us to go to Europe," Mousa Mustafa, a self-described spokesman for the group which arrived Monday, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Jordanian as well as international relief officials said Monday there was no way of even estimating the number of war refugees who might arrive in Jordan. Earlier accounts have mentioned figures between 1.5 million and two million, in-

cluding possible civilian casualties in the war, but only about 13,000 have crossed into Jordan since Jan. 17, when the American-led allied forces unleashed a fierce air assault on Iraq and Kuwait.

"Worries over massive exodus of war refugees remain very strong," said a senior international relief agency official. "The situation will be clearer when the ground offensive starts."

According to the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), the process of flying home evacuees home from Jordan against the backdrop of the suspension of regular airline flights to Amman got off with a good start Monday. Groups of Vietnamese and Thais were either in Egypt and on their way there across the Red Sea for flight home from Cairo. Over 600 Asians — Indians, Pakistanis and others are scheduled to be flown home from Aqaba Tuesday. Charter flight were also scheduled for Sudanese evacuees.

## Planes

(Continued from page 1)

planes in the air and 23 on the ground, against 20 allied aircraft downed by ground fire.

This still leaves Iraq with several hundred combat aircraft intact and raises questions about the permanence of allied air superiority.

But U.S. and British spokesmen claimed the allies had control of the skies over Iraq and Kuwait because the Iraqi planes were not challenging them.

At sea Monday, U.S. navy A-6 aircraft attacked Iraqi boats at the naval base of Umm Qasr, in Kuwait harbour and in the Bubiyan channel at the northwest tip of the Gulf, Gen. Stevens said.

Official IRNA news agency quoted the Supreme National Security Council as saying: "...Iran reiterates that the Iranian air space is insecure and dangerous for the planes of the belligerent parties in the war, and warns that in case any planes from the two sides land at Iranian territory, they will be held until the war is over."

The Iranian ambassador in the United Arab Emirates said the Iraqi planes had been allowed to land for humanitarian reasons.

IRNA said six Iraqi planes had crossed into Iran Sunday and Monday and two of them had crashed.

## Assault

(Continued from page 1)

share the fate of his predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

Mr. Sadat, who signed the Camp David accord with Israel in 1979, was assassinated by Muslim fundamentalists in October 1991.

The Egyptian people, who have a rich legacy of Arabism, struggle, and history, have said their word and issued their verdict on... Hosni," said a Baghdad Radio commentary. "They carried out their verdict on his predecessor Al Sadat. Hence, Hosni's date with death will not be far away."

The broadcast called Mr. Mubarak "a frightened coward," and said that he appeared more Zionist than his "Zionist friends in Tel Aviv" during a Thursday speech.

In that speech, delivered before the Egyptian parliament, Mr. Mubarak belittled Iraq's missile attack on Israel, calling them

an ineffective political gimmick and likening them to children's noise-makers.

In his speech, peppered with personal attacks on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Mr. Mubarak also criticised Iraq's demands for simultaneous negotiations on all Middle East issues.

The Iraqi commentator called the Egyptian president "stupid" and "lacking in manliness," and said that he had sold out his country for money.

That was an apparent reference to Washington's writing off Egypt's \$7 billion foreign aid debt in appreciation for Cairo's help in the Gulf crisis.

In other Gulf developments:

— The people of Baghdad are becoming hardened to repeated bombing raids from allied aircraft in the Gulf war, a Spanish journalist reported from the Iraqi capital.

— People are slowly overcoming their fears, as if the bombs weren't aimed at them, and many have become completely inured to the scare of increasing alerts," Alfonso Rojo said in a report published by El Mundo newspaper Monday.

— Iraq has a deadly collection of surface-to-surface missiles other than the Scud which could play a key role against an allied ground attack on Iraqi forces in Kuwait, a respected British defence journal said.

Jane's Soviet Intelligence Review said Iraq had a large but unspecified stock of the battlefield missiles which would be well dug-in and may have escaped allied bombers.

The journal's editor, Henry Dodds, said: "Iraq has got the potential to launch a lot of missiles at any ground force."

## Missiles

(Continued from page 1)

weapons at Israel, the Scuds launched so far have only carried conventional weapons.

In Riyadh, a military source said Iraq fired a Scud missile at the Saudi Arabia's capital Monday night but it was shot down short of the city.

"It was a Scud," he said. "We got it, about 20 kilometres south."

Until Monday, 26 Scuds had been fired at Saudi Arabia, most of them have been destroyed by Patriots.

Earlier Monday, Israeli leaders warned Iraq that it would be taking "very, very grave" risks in attacking with chemical weapons and said Israel had military contingency plans for retaliation against such an assault.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens issued the warnings a day after U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Iraq may resort to firing Scud missiles with chemical warheads.

Israeli editors also debated Monday how long the public would remain patient after the Iraqi missile attacks.

Mr. Shamir said it was unclear whether Iraq has the technology to carry out its threat to fire chemical weapons at Israel. Mr. Arens said Israel lacked "fool-proof information" about it.

"Maybe (Iraq) does, may be (it) doesn't," Mr. Shamir added, speaking on Israel Radio. "And if (it) has them, (it) could use them, but if (it) uses them, (it) is risking (itself) to a very, very grave extent."

Any Israeli action would be coordinated with the United States, Mr. Shamir added. "Israel is not interested in doing anything not useful, that will not reduce

the dangers that are threatening us," he said.

Israel has withheld reacting to the Iraqi missile attacks so far, heeding American pleas that an Israeli entry into the war could weaken the resolve of the Arab contingents in the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq.

Foreign Minister David Levy, in a speech to American Jewish leaders, said "you ought to know that when Israel decides to act it will be after all hope is lost and all aspects weighed."

Israel's leading dailies carried front-page stories and editorials about Mr. Cheney's comments in Washington Sunday.

Mr. Cheney said "there is a distinct possibility that (Iraq) may eventually begin to fire Scuds with chemical warheads. That's a threat, not only to our forces in Saudi Arabia, but to civilian populations there and in Israel as well."

## Oil spill

(Continued from page 1)

"We appeal to the international public opinion and organisations that have dedicated themselves to the protection of the environment, to raise their voices and make the utmost efforts against these crimes," it said.

"Our forces and technical teams are now trying to extinguish the fire by all means and halt the oil flow and lessen the consequences of the U.S. crime," the spokesman concluded.

Earlier, Iraqi Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed was reported to have sent a message to the World Health Organisation seeking help in which he said that an allied attack on two Iraqi oil tankers in the Gulf last week had resulted in a slick in the waterway.

Dr. Saeed referred to previous letters he had sent to WHO warning that "the presence of forces of the United States and its allies in the Arabian Gulf region raises the possibility that environmental and ecological damage to human life might occur."

"Recent events have confirmed the soundness of our predictions," he said.

"U.S. forces and their allies have attacked Iraqi tankers transporting oil. This has led to the leakage of large quantities of oil... causing a serious environmental threat to human health," Dr. Saeed said.

The allies have reported hitting a hovercraft and a tanker in the Gulf last week, but they claimed the tanker was empty.

Allied military action may have dramatically cut the flow of crude oil feeding the giant slick but some oil is still seeping slowly into the Gulf, industry sources said.

They said planes flying over the discharge buoy at Kuwait's main offshore terminal early Monday reported that the stream of oil had not stopped completely.

"It seems to be slowing down and clearing up — the oil is coming up in globs instead of a steady stream," one source said.

"We can't tell if it's just leftover crude seeping from the pipe or whether something was missed... we will not be able to make a final evaluation until after another day or so," he said.

Acting on the advice of Kuwaiti petroleum engineers, the U.S. military Saturday sent F-111 bombers to destroy outlet pipes feeding the terminal 20 kilometres off the coast of Mina Al Ahmadi in Kuwait.

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# Sports

## AC Milan coach sends warning to Van Basten

By Reuters

AC MILAN coach Arrigo Sacchi, concerned about the European Club champions' recent form in the Italian League, appears to be losing patience with Dutch striker Marco Van Basten.

Van Basten, European Footballer of the Year in 1988 and 1989, has not scored a league goal for Milan since November and was absent Sunday in their 1-1 draw at Genoa. A week earlier Milan lost 2-0 to newly-promoted Parma.

"The best thing about (Sunday's) match was the humility with which champions like (Franco) Baresi and (Raud) Gullit got stuck in and fought for every ball," Sacchi told reporters.

The comment was widely interpreted as a thinly-veiled message to the Dutchman, who has missed two consecutive games and last week criticised the team's "pre-diabolo" play.

"Sacchi's compliments to Baresi and Gullit become messages for Van Basten," the Gazzetta Dello Sport said. "A message for Van Basten," echoed the rival Corriere Dello Sport.

The coach will be no calmer on hearing the news from France that Marseille, Milan's quarter-final opponents in the European Cup in March, had thrashed Nantes 6-0 in the league.

That, and their 7-0 hammering of Lyon two weeks ago, showed what a brilliant attacking team Marseille have become.

Biz newly-appointed Belgian coach Raymond Goethals said he was still worried about defence. "I am concentrating on building up our security at the back and on having a well organised defence in view of our matches with Milan," he said.

If Van Basten wanted a model for humility, then he need look no further than Juventus midfielder Roberto Baggio.

The most expensive player in the world, Baggio scored a sparkling double in the Turin team's 5-0 home defeat of Parma and then cautioned against increased title expectations.

"This isn't the time to start talking about winning the title."

First let us put together a good series of results," he said after the team closed on leaders Internazionale, who were surprisingly held 1-1 at home to second division Cagliari.

Inter are now one point clear at the top, with Juventus, AC Milan and Sampdoria level-peggling for second place.

Baggio's goals also put him level with Inter's German World Cup Captain Lothar Matthaeus as top league goalscorer.

Brazilian Julio Cesar put Juventus ahead with a 24th minute free kick — which Italian television, ever enamoured of statistics, estimated was travelling at 104 kph.

Spanish League leaders Barcelone, playing to a near-capacity crowd in their Nou Camp Stadium, produced a notable second-half performance to trounce local rivals Espanol 5-2 Sunday.

### European Soccer

José Baker and Denmark's Michael Laudrup both scored twice as the leaders, held 1-1 at half-time, maintained their four-point lead over Atletico Madrid, who beat Valencia 2-0 Saturday.

Espanol had looked capable of winning the Catalan Derby in the first half despite falling behind to Laudrup's first effort from the penalty spot in the 32nd minute.

Cesar Mendiondo surprised Barcelona goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta five minutes later to level the scores, but striker Baker's two goals in the 47th and 53rd minutes put an end to the visitors' hopes.

Salinas increased Barcelona's lead in the 68th minute and a second Laudrup penalty made the score 5-1 three minutes later. Alex Garcia saved Espanol from total humiliation with an 85th-minute consolation goal.

Referee Antonio Martínez was a busy man, showing nine yellow cards including five to the visitors.

Struggling champions Real Madrid maintained their fifth place in the league with a 3-0

away win against Castellon, who suffered their first home defeat this season.

A superior Real side scored only two minutes into the game when Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez converted a penalty after an Antonio Machado foul on Madrid striker Emilio Butragueno.

In the 39th minute, midfielder Javier Villarroya set up Butragueno for Real's second goal and Romanian Georghe Hagi added a third with another penalty in the 69th minute.

Third-placed Osasuna beat visitors Real Valladolid 2-1. Valladolid took the lead in the 22th minute through Gregorio Fonseca but the home side responded in the second half with two goals by striker Jose Ciganda.

Sevilla kept their fourth position in the table with a 3-0 home win against Real Oviedo. Ramon Vazquez, Chilean Ivan Zamorano and Austria's Anton Polster were the men on target.

Frank Farina scored four goals on Sunday as Club Bruges of Belgium overwhelmed local rivals Cercle Brugge 10-0 in the Belgian first division.

Club Bruges, the title holders, are in third place after 21 matches between Ghent and Anderlecht.

The top nine teams in the Portuguese Soccer League all drew their weekend matches, leaving champions Porto still one point clear of Benfica at the top of the table.

Porto drew 1-1 at Boavista after taking the lead through a Jose Semedo penalty in the 47th minute. They held their advantage until four minutes from time when defender Jorge Couto lost the ball to Boavista's Brazilian import Marion Brandoa, who slotted the equaliser.

Benfica's Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern, out of action recently due to injury, scored in the first minute of his side's visit to Penafiel. But the Lisbon side faded and could not stop Penafiel's Abel Levelling with a 61st minute header.

Third-placed Sporting, six points behind Porto, fought a tough away match against Salgueiros which ended goalless.

Fourth-placed Sporting, six points behind Porto, fought a tough away match against Salgueiros which ended goalless.

Struggling champions Real Madrid maintained their fifth place in the league with a 3-0

## Girardelli well-placed to win skiing title

SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM, Austria (AP) — Kristian Ghedina was fastest in the downhill portion of the men's combined event Monday at the World Alpine Skiing Championships, but two-time defending champion Marc Girardelli was well-positioned to win the title.

Ghedina's time of 1 minute, 42.52 seconds was .9 faster than that of Switzerland's William Besse, while Jan-Einar Thorsen of Norway was third in 1:43.55.

But none of the three is strong in the slalom that will complete the combined event Wednesday. That race will count more heavily than the downhill to determine the overall winner.

Luxembourg's Girardelli, who won the slalom title last week, and Austrian Guenther Mader were in the best position to take the combined.

Girardelli finished the 2,655-meter Schneekristall Course, which had a drop of 825 metres, in 1:44.68. Mader, twice a combined bronze medalist at the World Championships, had a time of 1:44.56.

Though both were more than two seconds behind Ghedina, the Italian dismissed his chances of victory.

"Ghedina is two seconds behind today, but he is too strong in slalom. He's out of my reach," Ghedina said. "I can hope for a bronze medal, but I don't really think I can win gold or silver."

Defending Olympic champion Hubert Strolz finished in a disappointing 1:46.31.

Frank Heinzer, the Swiss skier who won Sunday's downhill race, did not participate in Monday's combined downhill.

On Sunday, Heinzer overcame a history of frustrating fourth-place finishes by deciding it would either be a medal this time or nothing at all.

The Swiss skier took all the risks on a steep, treacherous course and finally came up with the big one — the gold in the downhill, the most difficult and glamorous Alpine skiing event.

Heinzer, 28, had finished fourth in three previous World Championships. He had a slow start but then blazed down the 2,990-metre course in a winning time of 1 minute, 54.91 seconds.

"I've been fourth three times in the World Championships and it's absolutely marvelous that I won today," Heinzer said. "It's a wonderful feeling."

"My aim today was just to get a medal and not to be fourth again," he said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would win the gold medal."

"When I went to the start, I thought today either I would be fast or I would fall. I was ready to race all out, to take risks."

"My greatest fear was to finish fourth again," said Heinzer, who just missed medals in 1982, 1983 and 1985.

It's something which is a tough decision because last year I didn't play the French and then I didn't

## Marseille president banned for 12 months, may quit

PARIS (R) — Marseille's millionaire President Bernard Tapie was banned for 12 months by a soccer disciplinary body Monday for "causing serious harm to sporting morale and for insulting referees."

French soccer's National Disciplinary Committee banned the controversial Marseille boss from all official soccer roles. It suspended the final four of the 12 months.

Tapie was also told he was not allowed in the dressing rooms or on the touchline during matches.

Marseille's Director-General Jean-Pierre Berne was also banned for six months for damaging sporting morale.

Tapie has been under investigation by the committee since a

public row last year with then Bordeaux President Claude Bez, involving bribery allegations and counter-allegations.

At the time, Tapie wrote a threatening letter to referee Gerard Biguet, who officiated at Bordeaux's 3-0 home win over Marseille.

The committee fined Bez 50,000 francs (\$10,000) and recommended that he be suspended for three years if he wanted to return to soccer.

Bez, who publicly accused Tapie of trying to fix matches, quit the Bordeaux presidency in November last year after being charged with fraud in connection with the club's huge financial deficit.

The committee said: "Mr.

Tapie is guilty of causing serious harm to sporting morale and for insulting referees, for offering them verbal threats and for trying to intimidate them."

Tapie, who has poured a small fortune into Marseille in an attempt to make them European Champions, had said he would appeal against any sanction by the committee.

Bez also accused Tapie and Berne of trying to buy players to throw matches in which Marseille were involved. His allegations were never proved.

The disciplinary committee's findings follow a bleak period for French soccer in which 11 people, including Bez, were charged with criminal offences last year after a series of financial scandals involving the Bordeaux and Toulon clubs.

Berne, contacted by Reuters by telephone, declined to comment on the committee's verdict.

The punishment on Bez was handed out for "making unfounded accusations."

Tapie, a parliamentary deputy with serious political ambitions and a businessman with wide interests who last year took over the Adidas sportswear firm, is no stranger to controversy.

His abrasive and impulsive behaviour has led him to brushes with soccer authorities and the media.

Last year he was officially reprimanded by the European Football Union (UEFA) for making a false bribery claim against a referee.

The reprimand came after a furious Tapie insisted Belgian official Marcel Van Langenhove had been bribed to help Beaufca into the European Cup final.

The Portuguese club beat Marseille in the semifinal with a goal which was scored with the assistance of a player's arm. Van Langenhove was later cleared.

This season he decided to appoint German World Cup-winning team boss Franz Beckenbauer above successful coach Gerard Gilli.

Gilli quit to join Bordeaux and, as Marseille's form suffered, an impatient Tapie effectively supplanted Beckenbauer three months later by taking on former Bordeaux trainer Raymond Goethals as coach.

Tapie has also banned journalists whose reports offend him from attending team training sessions.

## Becker to go for rare Grand Slam collection

MELBOURNE (R) — Boris Becker, feeling slightly uneasy in his new role of world number one, has his sights set on completing a rare tennis Grand Slam collection.

Girardelli finished the 2,655-meter Schneekristall Course, which had a drop of 825 metres, in 1:44.68. Mader, twice a combined bronze medalist at the World Championships, had a time of 1:44.56.

Though both were more than two seconds behind Ghedina, the Italian dismissed his chances of victory.

"Ghedina is two seconds behind today, but he is too strong in slalom. He's out of my reach," Ghedina said. "I can hope for a bronze medal, but I don't really think I can win gold or silver."

Defending Olympic champion Hubert Strolz finished in a disappointing 1:46.31.

Frank Heinzer, the Swiss skier who won Sunday's downhill race, did not participate in Monday's combined downhill.

On Sunday, Heinzer overcame a history of frustrating fourth-place finishes by deciding it would either be a medal this time or nothing at all.

Becker has taken three titles on the grass of Wimbledon, where he became the youngest men's winner at 17 in 1985, but has never won on clay, the French Open surface at Roland Garros.

He plans to play his exile "home" tournament of Monte Carlo and the Italian Open in Rome in preparation for the French Open, which begins at the end of May. He was semifinalist at the French in 1987 and 1989.

"Of course it's going to be very important for me to do well there, but especially maybe to win one clay-court tournament finally. Hopefully the clay-court tournament (French Open), he said after his dramatic win over Lendl.

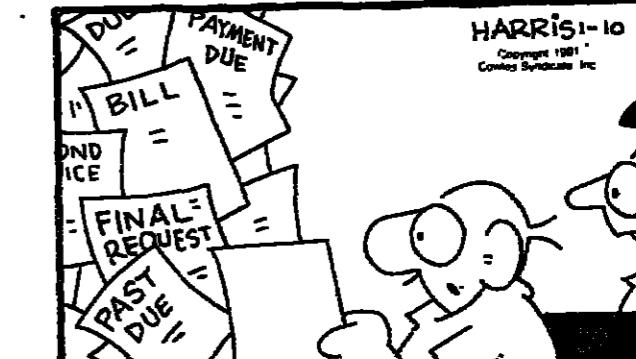
Lendl, who skipped the French Open last year in his failed attempt to concentrate on winning Wimbledon, also plans to return to Roland Garros.

The Yugoslav, youngest men's French Open champion last year, claimed a similar distinction in Australia. Graf, who won all the Grand Slams in 1988, now holds none of the titles.

## HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



If we chew breakfast for 10 hours without swallowing, we can cut our grocery bill by 70 percent!

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**KADEB**

**TAFOO**

**RUMIAD**

**NIMERV**

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME  
© 1981 Herb Alpert and Bob Cole

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: PUTTY GROIN DEVICE MASCOT

Answer: The opportunist has no use for friends --- HE CAN'T "USE"

### THE Daily Crossword

by I. Miller

ACROSS

1 Gator kin

5 Vessel

10 Well-informed

14 Tibetan monk

15 Tangle

16 — contended

17 Open slightly

18 Choice part

19 Regretted

20 Belittler

21 Becomes visible

24 Gambler's concern

25 Concert halls

26 Troublesome

27 Terrible

34 Punta —

# Economy

## Asia achieve record cereal production in '90

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Asian nations are gathering record cereal harvests after an excellent monsoon season in 1990, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says.

The main 1990 rice crop, now being harvested, looks plentiful in the region with the main exceptions of Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, said the December issue of the U.N. agency's Food Outlook report.

Bangladesh is forecast to have a record rice crop. Output in Burma and China is expected to exceed the previous year's levels.

Output in Pakistan is forecast at 5.2 million tonnes, an eight per cent increase over the previous year.

Output in Japan is likely to be about the same high level as the previous year despite the lowering of support prices and a rice land diversion programme, the report said.

The report estimated that

Asian countries produced 490.1 million tonnes of rice in 1990 — more than 92 per cent of the global output of 519.1 million tonnes.

It estimated that Asian countries produced a total of 203 million tonnes of wheat in 1990, a six per cent increase over the previous year.

Record or near-record wheat harvests are expected in China, of 96 million tonnes in India, of 53 million tonnes in Turkey and in Pakistan.

The Asian region's output of coarse grains in 1990 is estimated at 175 million tonnes, four per cent above the previous year, the report said.

A record crop of coarse grains is expected in China, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan and Vietnam also had better harvests than the previous year while output recovered sharply in Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

## China sets economic targets for year 2000

BEIJING (R) — China Monday announced its economic targets until the end of the century, stating that the total value of its economy in the year 2000 will be four times that of 1980.

The value of all goods and services or gross national product (GNP) in China, the world's most populous nation, will grow at about six per cent a year, according to a central committee of the Chinese Communist Party document published by the official New China News Agency.

GNP grew at 4.4 per cent last year.

The proposals, giving specific numbers for China's 10-year programme (1991-2000) and eighth five-year plan (1991-1995), were set at a major meeting at the end of last year but released only

## Gulf war stops \$100m of Indonesian farm exports

JAKARTA (AP) — Indonesia has had to stop exports of agricultural commodities worth \$100 million to Middle East countries since the outbreak of the Gulf war, a senior official said Monday.

"The termination of the exports, representing about three per cent of our entire exports of agriculture commodities, constitutes the direct impact of the Gulf war," Agriculture Minister Wardoyo told a parliamentary hearing.

"The indirect impact is the increase of transportation and insurance fees to and from Europe," he added. He did not elaborate.

Indonesia has exported tea, coffee, rubber, fish, meat and vegetables to the Middle East.

## Saudi British Bank raises net profit

BAHRAIN (R) — The Riyad-based Saudi British Bank said its net profit for 1990 rose to 192 million riyals, up on the previous year of 123 million despite the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

A bank statement said gross operating income before provisions rose to 424.7 million riyals against 336.1 in 1989. Operation expenses rose to 207.2 million in 1990 from 187.3 the previous year.

Total assets rose 16 per cent at the end of 1990 to 14,578 billion riyals compared with 12,550 billion a year ago.

Provision for possible credit losses eased lightly to 25.4 million riyals in 1990 against 25.7 in 1989.

One dollar currently buys 2.92 pounds at the official rate and around 3.10 pounds on the black market.

Economists said that because of cash infusions from Gulf Arab countries Cairo now had enough reserves to guarantee a steady pound for at least several months.

Oil and cotton exports, Suez Canal tolls and certain key imports would continue to be priced at an official rate close to the market rate, Sedki said. All other transactions would be made freely by banks and licensed money changers.

This official rate would be totally abolished within a year, completing the pound's flotation.

Sedki said the transformation to a free economy would force the state to rely increasingly on taxes and fees for finance.

"Perhaps the most important of what the government will present within a short period is development of the present consumer tax to become a sales tax... this will all be introduced gradually over three years," he said.

Currency reform and the introduction of a sales tax have been the IMF's two main demands before an accord was signed.

## AMMAN RATES EXCHANGE

Monday, January 28, 1991

Central Bank official rates

Buy Sell

U.S. dollar	665.0	669.0
British Sterling	1,030.0	1,030.0
Dutch guilder	744.7	449.4
Swiss franc	525.6	530.8
French franc	151.4	132.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	502.0	505.0
Dutch guilder	396.2	398.6
Swedish krona	119.4	120.1
Italian lire (for 100)	59.4	59.8
Belgian franc (for 10)	216.8	218.1

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and billion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9615/25	U.S. dollar	1.1610/20
One U.S. dollar	1.1610/20	Canadian dollar	1.4870/77
		Deutschmarks	1.6750/60
		Dutch guilders	1.2611/18
		Swiss francs	30.62/67
		Belgian francs	5.0500/0550
		French francs	1117/1118
		Italian lire	132.20/30
		Japanese yen	5.5600/50
		Swedish kronas	5.8200/50
		Norwegian kronas	5.7260/10
One ounce of gold	374.60/375.10	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuter

TOKYO — Most players were idle ahead of Tuesday's start of trading for February accounts. Brokers said the market was also watching how overseas markets would begin the week. The Nikkei index fell 3.81 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 23,569.44.

SYDNEY — The stock market was closed Monday for the Australia Day holiday. The All Ordinaries index closed 27.0 points higher on Friday at 1,295.6.

HONG KONG — Profit-taking dragged the Hang Seng index down through the 3,200 support but selective buying cushioned the retreat and the index ended 8.07 down at 3,198.29.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed with widespread gains after fairly active trading. The Straits Times rose 22.09 points or 1.6 per cent to close at 1,260.84 from Friday's close of 1,238.75.

BOMBAY — Market closed.

FRANKFURT — The 30-share DAX index edged up 0.63 of a point to 1,382.68. Analysts say a significant recovery in German share prices is unlikely while the Gulf war continues.

ZURICH — Sentiment improved on slightly easier interest rates and Economics Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz's call on Saturday for easier monetary policy to revive the slowing economy. The all-share SPI index rose 7.4 points to 909.8.

PARIS — The CAC-40 index recovered from morning losses and ended 2.69 points higher at 1,565.69. "The market remains in a wait-and-see mood," a dealer said.

LONDON — Slim turnover reflected continued investor caution and lack of developments in the Gulf. The FTSE 100 index gained 15 points to 2118.

NEW YORK — Trading was choppy but sentiment was lifted by a lack of Gulf war news. At 1746 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was up 9.65 to 2,669.06.

## Egypt announces additional reforms

CAIRO (R) — Egypt unveiled sweeping measures to liberalise its economy Monday. The forceful departure from 30 years of rigid central planning is intended to clear the way for further Western debt relief for a key Gulf war ally.

The reforms, announced to parliament by Prime Minister Atef Sedki, include a partial currency flotation, a new sales tax, an overhaul of the public sector, urgent support for state-owned banks and the opening of new areas for private investment.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had demanded the reforms before considering a stand-by accord that would bring billions of dollars in debt relief and new loans.

"The basic policy of freeing the economy, which has been a firm policy since this government was formed, is to provide an appropriate atmosphere for production to take off," Sedki told parliament.

Sedki said the Egyptian pound could be traded freely. He gave no date for starting the system but Western economists said the government would likely move quickly to avoid black market speculation.

One dollar currently buys 2.92 pounds at the official rate and around 3.10 pounds on the black market.

Economists said that because of cash infusions from Gulf Arab countries Cairo now had enough reserves to guarantee a steady pound for at least several months.

Oil and cotton exports, Suez Canal tolls and certain key imports would continue to be priced at an official rate close to the market rate, Sedki said. All other transactions would be made freely by banks and licensed money changers.

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Currency reform and the introduction of a sales tax have been the IMF's two main demands before an accord was signed.

## Sedki raises estimate of Egypt's losses from Gulf war to \$13.7b

came home before the Gulf war erupted on Jan. 17.

About \$700 million in extra government expenditures, including the costs of workers' repatriation and upgraded security nationwide.

Government officials said earlier there were 200,000 Egyptian workers in Iraq and another 15,000 Kuwait when the war broke out.

Egypt led Arab opposition to Iraq's conquest of Kuwait. It has sent 36,000 troops to Saudi Arabia and 2,500 to the United Arab Emirates to help defend against further Iraqi advances.

Despite the Gulf-related economic burdens, the crisis brought Egypt some relief.

The United States has forgiven Cairo's military debt of \$6.7 billion. The oil-rich Arab states in the Gulf region wrote off Egyptian debts totalling about \$7 billion.

The two exemptions, tokens of gratitude for Egypt's anti-Iraq stance, accounted for more than a quarter of the country's foreign debt.

Additionally, the so-called Group of Seven, comprising the leading industrialised nations, said last week its members were writing off one-third of Cairo's public debt to them. No figure

was given.

Egypt also has been promised more than \$1 billion in Gulf crisis aid from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Japan and West European countries.

The Suez Canal, one of Egypt's main sources of badly needed hard currency, is losing up to 30 per cent of its annual income as a result of the Gulf war.

The canal's chairman, Ezzat Adel, told the government-run Al Akbar newspaper that the canal's losses in the first week of the war amounted to \$4 million and could increase if the number of ships transiting through the waterway continues to decline.

The interview was published in Monday's edition of the newspaper, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press.

The official said the traffic of oil tankers to and from the Gulf dwindled drastically since the outbreak of hostilities there on Jan. 17.

Last Tuesday, for the first time in 15 years, there was no oil tanker in the canal's northbound traffic from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, Adel said.

Tankers ferrying oil to Europe are the canal's most important source of income.

The waterway's overall income for 1989 was \$1.1 billion. Figures for 1990 have not been released

yet.

Adel said an average of 16 ships now sail through the canal every week, down from 50 vessels before the war. He attributed the general decrease in traffic to a rise in insurance premiums on all ships bound to or from the Gulf, whether through the Suez Canal or southern Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

He said the new charges consist of 1.5 per cent of the price of the vessel and 1.5 per cent of the value of its cargo.

There are additional insurance charges for ships transiting through the canal. They vary between \$20,000 to \$30,000 depending on the size of the vessel and the nature of its shipment, Adel said.

He also spoke of security precautions taken by the government to protect the canal and said there is no danger of attacks or mine laying in the waterway.

After the war erupted, the government ordered a maximum military and police alert at all strategic locations which include the canal and the Aswan High Dam in southern Egypt.

Security agencies are paying special attention to cement ships in the canal to ensure that saboteurs do not sink them to block the waterway.

altogether, Vales acknowledged that "we could go on for maybe another month, then rationing would be introduced, and then we would see."

Rocketing world oil prices due to the Gulf crisis and a shortfall in Soviet crude supplies have hit hard as East Europe's economies struggle to switch from ponderous central planning to free-market principles.

Czechoslovakia will trade engineering and consumer goods for two million tonnes of Soviet oil this year, and will pay for the remaining 5.5 million tonnes at world market prices in hard currency, Vales said.

He said the country needed a minimum of 12 million tonnes of oil to keep its industries running at 1990 levels. That included at least nine million tonnes for heat.

"Further talks will be very complicated," Vales said, adding that there were "few guarantees" the Soviets would deliver even the promised supplies.

## AVISO A LOS CIUDADANOS COLOMBIANOS RESIDENTES EN JORDANIA

El Consulado Honorable de Colombia en Jordania informa a los ciudadanos colombianos que el Gobierno de Jordania desea tener completa información sobre su

lona residente en Jordania. Para lo arriba mencionado, deberán registrarse aquellas personas que no se han inscrito anteriormente en el Consulado Honorable de Colombia, Edificio del Fide, Calle Al-Hussein Bin Ali, Jabal Amman, Teléfono 652688, para tener contacto con ellos en caso de necesidad.

Soviet troops close Lithuanian customs posts

## Police jeer Latvian president, urge interior minister to quit

RIGA, USSR (AP) — Several hundred Latvian policemen jeered the republic's president Monday and called for the resignation of their boss, Interior Minister Alois Vaznis.

The police officers jammed a skyit auditorium at the University of Latvia for a four-hour meeting with the Baltic republic's leaders, including Vaznis, President Anatolijus Gorbunovs and Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis.

The raucous meeting reflected a deep split in police ranks between those supporting Latvia's pro-independence government and those loyal to the national government in Moscow and the anti-independence branch of the Communist Party in Riga.

That split was aggravated on Jan. 20 when elite "black beret" riot police loyal to Moscow attacked the Latvian Interior Ministry, killing four people, including two regular police officers.

Many of the estimated 500-800 police officers in the auditorium were ethnic Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians who are leery of Latvia's move toward independence. They whistled and hooted when Vaznis said he had tried to depoliticise the police force, which is part of the Interior Ministry.

On Friday, a similar gathering of about 500 Latvian police officers took a unanimous vote of no-confidence in Vaznis, who has supported the pro-independence forces and allowed volunteers to build barricades in the streets of

Riga, the republic's capital.

The barricades went up the night of Jan. 13 when Soviet paratroopers stormed the central television tower in neighbouring Lithuania, killing 14 people.

When Gorbunovs said the barricades had been erected spontaneously by the Latvian people to defend against a possible Soviet attack, the auditorium burst into jeering. The 43-year-old president was unable to continue until a senior police officer stood up and called for order.

Gorbunovs said a "political battle" was taking place in Latvia between the pro-independence Popular Front, which supports him, and the Communist Party. The recent shootings, he said, show that "this battle is now being fought not only with political means, but also with violence."

He called for all political groups in Latvia to renounce the use of force.

The policemen cheered and applauded when a leader of the pro-Moscow faction, police Col. Nikolai S. Goncharenko, called for the immediate replacement of Vaznis.

Godmanis, the prime minister, defended Vaznis as a "professional" in an effort to deflect Goncharenko's suggestion. He invited anyone seeking the post of interior minister to apply in writing, but he did not appear to be serious about replacing Vaznis.

Meanwhile, Soviet troops seized two Lithuanian customs

posts and ordered them shut permanently, a government spokesman said Monday.

The troops fired shots, confiscated documents, broke windows and beat several customs officers in the Sunday night assault near the Byelorussian border, spokesman Andrius Azaibalis said.

The troops, numbering about a dozen and wearing the black berets of the Soviet Interior Ministry police, entered customs posts in the villages of Medininkai and Lavariskes, about 45 kilometres south of Vilnius, Azaibalis said.

After warning the customs officers not to reopen, the Soviets withdrew, he said. Several workers were roughed up, but did not require hospitalisation, the spokesman said.

Azaibalis said the assault was a "provocation" designed to push the customs workers, who are unarmed, into obtaining weapons. "It would provide a very good pretense to attack," he said.

Only three people were staffing the Medininkai Post, with another four manning the customs shed at Lavariskes, Azaibalis said.

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they have begun keeping a record of brutality inflicted on their citizens.

In a separate development, rebel Estonian Communist Party chief said Sunday he supported the drive for independence in the Soviet Baltic republics.

"We recognise that the Baltic republics have to be sovereign, independent and free," Veino Valjan told Reuters in an interview.

But the former Soviet ambassador and one-time ally of Gorbatchev said the break with Moscow should come through negotiations.

"We must be political realists... the way to resolve this must be through negotiation and dialogue to achieve a treaty which will gradually realise all our intentions and hopes," he said during a break in a party congress this weekend in Tallinn, the republic's capital.

In Moscow, deputy mayor Monday condemned the Kremlin's plan for joint military-police patrols of major Soviet cities as a step toward a state of emergency and said city officials would oppose the move.

Sergei Stankevich said at a news conference that city officials have formally requested more information about the order by the Interior and Defence Ministries but have not received an answer.

"It is an unprecedented order," Stankevich said. "Practically, it will change the political order by introducing elements of a state of emergency."

They have begun keeping a record of brutality inflicted on their citizens.

In neighbouring Latvia, four people were killed on Jan. 20 when elite "black berets" of the Soviet Interior Ministry invaded the republic's police headquarters. Two others have also died in similar Latvian assaults this month.

Miks Rauzins, a 19-year-old Latvian, is hiding in the home of distant relatives in Riga. He said he would never serve in the Soviet army because it was the "wrong army."

"I think it's not the army I'm supposed to serve in. It's the occupation army and of course it's not safe," Rauzins said.

Rauzins' relative, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he was beaten with heavy-buckled leather belts when he served in the Soviet army.

Other former Soviet servicemen recounted how officers regularly sexually abused new recruits.

Kapper said new recruits were beaten and bullied in the middle of the night and two soldiers died mysteriously.

"One day I just opened the front door and walked out. I had had enough," he said.

Kapper was caught and arrested, but escaped and man-

aged to get to Irkutsk, a city 1,000

kilometres west of the base where he was stationed, before being apprehended again.

He managed to escape handcuffed by jumping from a moving train.

After managing to pick the lock with a piece of wire between his teeth, he fainted from injuries and exhaustion.

Cossack hunters found Kapper, nursed him, gave him money and clothes and he returned to Estonia.

Five months later he was arrested in Tallinn.

Kapper spent several months in prison across the Soviet Union before being returned to his military unit in China, a city 300

kilometres north of the Chinese border.

"After they caught me, I told them I had left because it was hazing time near my home. They didn't like that," Kapper said.

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Kapper said new recruits were beaten and bullied in the middle of the night and two soldiers died mysteriously.

"One day I just opened the front door and walked out. I had had